

TRADITION OF SANSKRIT LITERATURE IN ORISSA

With the growing popularity of comparative language and literature it will be more useful for the students of World literature to have a study on the tradition of Sanskrit literature. Sanskrit has occupied a distinguished position in the history of the World literature for its use in different branches of learning, which are most prolific and helpful to make the human life more happy and cultured. It is, therefore, necessary to do research on the tradition of sanskrit literature which has also a great impact in inspiring the scholars of different parts of the World.

As far as the records are available the tradition of sanskrit language and literature is seen in India since the Vedic age. The then genius sanskrit poets and versatile scholars of different parts of India had served sincerely for the growth of sanskrit literature by composing valuable works in sanskrit and thus the sanskritic tradition began ever since, which has come down to us with a continuous process. We, therefore, see that many Indian states have contributed a lot for the sanskrit tradition. Here my focal point is the tradition of sanskrit literature in Orissa.

Orissa has played a prominent role for the development of sanskrit literature. It is believed that the sanskrit tradition in Orissa started in the Vedic age. Sanskrit poets and eminent scholars of Orissa were proficient in different branches of learning like *Veda*, *Vedāṅga*, *Itihāsa*, *Purāṇa*, *Dharmaśāstra*, *Arthaśāstra*, *Āyurveda*, *Darśana* and *Kāvya* etc., who had contributed a lot of sanskrit works in order to enrich the sanskrit literature. The monuments, epigraphic records like copper-plate grants as well as inscriptions of rulers of Orissa, written in sanskrit and a large

number of sanskrit manuscripts on palm-leaves of the orissan sanskrit authors so far discovered, furnish adequate evidence on the sanskrit tradition of Orissa. Here an attempt has been made to reveal the sanskrit tradition of Orissa on the basis of the available records which supply valuable informations for research on this subject.

Orissan rulers like the dynasties of Māthara of 4th Century A.D., Sailodbhava (570 A.D.-735 A.D.), Bhowmakar (736 A.D.-900 A.D.), Somavaṃśa (900 A.D.-1100 A.D.), Gaṅga (1100 A.D.-1435 A.D.) and Sūrya (1435 A.D.-1568 A.D.) had patronized the sanskrit scholars who had served for the development of the sanskrit literature.

Sanskrit was recognized and honoured as the royal language during the reign of Somavansi rulers othewise known as Kesari Kings. From the epigraphic records of this period it is known that some great sanskrit scholars like Sadhāraṇa, Bhaṭṭa, Siṃha Bhaṭṭa, Puruṣottama Bhaṭṭa and others were versatile scholars and good poets, who enriched the sanskrit literature. The royal poet Nārāyaṇa Satkavi composed the *Rāmābhyudaya Mahākāvya* as noted in the Pujārīpalli inscriptions of Gopalvira, a king of Soma dynasty. Even the then ministerial staff had profound knowledge in sanskrit. Sadhāraṇa Bhaṭṭa, the minister of the king Janmejaya Deva of the said dynasty was described as the master of *Veda*, *Vedāṅga*, *Arthaśāstra* and other subjects in the following two verses quoted below from the copper plate grants of Janmejaya i.e.

1. *Yassādḥāraṇanāmnī manṭriṭilake vinyasya sarvāgama dhairyo-
danvaṭi ṭivratejasi dhuraṃ rājyasya vidvattame nānākhyanaka-
viṣṭadāmritarasāsvādādamandasphuraṭ sanṭoṣāt sukhamanva-
bhudaviraṭaṃ prithvīshachudamaṇiḥ.*
2. *Ineyāshesārthashāstrasmritivimaladhiyā vedavedaṅgavidyā
shikshyākālpetiḥasaprakatasuraguruprāptabhuyiṣṭhadhamnā
namnā sadhāraṇena dvijavaravidhinā mantriṇā yasya rājyaṃ
nirvyudhaṃ so'yamuchchaistrijagati vidito dharmakandārpae-
vah¹.*

1. a) Three grants of the 31st year edited by J.F. Fleet, E.I., Vol. III, pp. 345-350. b) Kalibhana grant of the 34th year, I.H.Q., Vol. XX, p. 220.

Puruṣottama Bhaṭṭa, the author of the Brahmeśvara temple inscription during the reign of Udyota Kesari was a versatile scholar and good poet, as is known from a verse quoted below — i.e.

1. *Vedavyākaraṇārthashāstrakavitātarkādividyadhāro brahmevāvi-
tāthaprasannavinayodvudhiḥ vishuddhānvayaḥ tārādhishva-
ravamaṣhajāvanibhujāṃ shubhrayashastanvaṭāṃ bhattashrīpuru-
ṣottamaḥ kavivaro'kāṛṣidimāṃ varṇanām*².

From this verse it is known that Puruṣottama Bhaṭṭa was proficient in *Veda*, *Vyākaraṇa*, *Arthaśāstra*, *Kāvya*, *Tarka* and *Brahma-sūtra* and was a «Kavivara» or great poet.

Sadhāraṇa Bhaṭṭa and Puruṣottama Bhaṭṭa, must have been written some other works which could not be traced so far.

The copper-plate records of the imperial Gaṅga were written in sanskrit verses. Sanskrit literature was enriched by a number of notable sanskrit poets and scholars who had composed innumerable sanskrit works of great merit during the periods of Gaṅga (C. 1100-1435 C. A.D.) and Sūrya (1435-1568 C. A.D.) dynasties. Hence these periods are called as the «Golden Age» of sanskrit literature. Some important works of the then sanskrit scholars can be cited here for its evidence. Such works can be divided into the following sections like *Purāṇa*, *Dharmaśāstra*, *Tantra*, *Mahākāvya*, *Gitikāvya* or Lyrical poetry, Drama and Poetics or *Alaṅkāra*.

1. PURĀṆA:

In this section *Mukticintāmaṇi* is the best work, which was compiled by the famous Gajapati King Puruṣottama Deva of 1466 to 1497 A.D. It is a work on the rites and rituals of Lord Jagannath at Puri.

2. DHARMAŚĀSTRA:

Sarasvativilāsa is an important work on *Dharmaśāstra* which was written by Gajapati Pratāparudra Deva of 1497 to 1533 A.D. In this work the administration, judiciary and modern topics

2. J.A.S.B., Vol. VII, 1838; reedited by Sri P. Acharya in J.A.S.B., Vol. XIII, New Series, 1947, pp. 63-75.

like political science, economics, state crafts etc. have been discussed.

3. TANTRA:

Purāṇa and other sacred texts have depicted Orissa as the first and foremost tantric *pīṭha* of India. Many tantric works of the Hindus and Buddhists must have been written in Orissa. Unfortunately many of them have been lost to oblivion. Among the available hindu *tantras* most notable is *Śaradārcanapaddhatiḥ* of Godāvara Miśra, which is attributed in the name of Gajapati Pratāparudradeva of 1487 to 1533 A.D.

4. MAHĀKĀVYA:

In this section *Sahṛdayānanda Mahākāvya* of Krishānanda Sandhivigrahika Mohapatra of 1328 C. A.D. and *Bhaktibhāgavata* of Kavidindima Jivadevācārya are notable works.

5. GĪTĪKĀVYA OR LYRICAL POETRY:

Gītagovinda by Jayadeva of 1150 C. A.D., *Abhinavagītagovinda* by Gajapati Puruṣottamadeva of 1466 to 1497 A.D. and *Rukmiṇī-pariṇaya* by Narāyaṇabhaṇjajadeva of 1525 A.D. are the best works in this section.

6. DRAMA:

Narasīnghavijayanāṭaka of Candrasekhara Sandhivigrahika Mohapatra, *Prabhāvatipariṇayanāṭaka* and *Candrakalanāṭikā* of Kavirāja Viśvanāth Mohapatra and *Śrījagannāthavallabhanāṭaka* of Rāya Rāmānanda are the best works in this drama section.

7. ALAṆKĀRA OR POETICS:

Ekāvali of Vidyādhara and *Sāhityadarpaṇa* of Kavirāja Viśvanāth Mohapatra are the best poetical works during this period.

After this preliminary information, I propose to present a list

of the available works of creative sanskrit literature like *Mahākāvya*, *Gītikāvya*, *Campūkāvya* and *Rūpaka* or drama periodically through which the tradition of sanskrit literature in Orissa can be marched.

MAHĀKĀVYA

In this section the following works are available.

| AUTHOR | DATE | WORK |
|---|----------------|---|
| 1. Krisṇanandasandhivigrahika Mohapātra | 1350 A.D. | <i>Sahridayānanda</i> |
| 2. Kavidindimajivadevācārya | 1497-1533 A.D. | <i>Bhaktibhāgavata</i> |
| 3. Markandeya Mishra | 1559-1578 A.D. | <i>Daśagrivavadha</i> |
| 4. Haladhara Mishra | 1623-1647 A.D. | <i>Vasantotsava</i> |
| 5. Gangādhara Mishra | 1625 A.D. | <i>Kosatananda</i> |
| 6. Kavichandraraya Divakar Mishra | 16th C. A.D. | <i>Bhāratāmṛta</i> and <i>Lakshyaṇādarśa</i> |
| 7. Mahāmahopādhyāya Govinda Mishra | 1680-1778 A.D. | <i>Pradyumnasambhava</i> and <i>Gourakrishodaya</i> |
| 8. Vasudeva Praharaj | 18th C. A.D. | <i>Raghavayadaviya</i> |
| 9. Vrajasundar Pattanayak | 1728-1779 A.D. | <i>Sulochanamadhava</i> |
| 10. Kaviratna Harekrishna Samantaray | 1750 A.D. | <i>Radhavilasa</i> |
| 11. Kavichandra Kamalalochan Khadgaray | 18th C. A.D. | <i>Vrajayuvavilāsa</i> |
| GĪTIKĀVYA | | |
| 1. Jayadeva | 1150 A.D. | <i>Gītagovinda</i> |
| 2. Gajapatipurusottamadeva | 1466-1497 A.D. | <i>Abhinavagītagovinda</i> |
| 3. Narayāṇabhanjadeva | 1525 A.D. | <i>Rukmiṇipariṇaya</i> |
| 4. Yatindra Raghuttama | 1620 A.D. | <i>Mukundavilāsa</i> |
| 5. Agnichit Nityananda | 1630 A.D. | <i>Śivalilāmṛta</i> and <i>Śrīkṛṣṇalilāmṛta</i> |
| 6. Shitikantha | 1650 A.D. | <i>Gitasitavallabha</i> |
| 7. Kavichandra Kamalalochana Khadgaraya | 1775 A.D. | <i>Gītamukunda</i> |
| CAMPŪ KĀVYA | | |
| 1. Vāsudeva Rath Somayaji | 1700 A.D. | <i>Gaṅgavamsanucarita</i> |
| 2. Vakravak Chakrapani Pattanaik | 1778 A.D. | <i>Gundica Campu</i> |
| 3. Bhagavan Brahma | 18th C. A.D. | <i>Mrigayacampu</i> |
| 4. Kavisurya Baladev Rath | 19th C. A.D. | <i>Kishorachandrānana Campu</i> |
| RŪPAKA OR DRAMA | | |
| 1. Murari Mishra | 8th C. A.D. | <i>Anargharāghava</i> |
| 2. Krisna Mishra | 11th C. A.D. | <i>Prabodhacandrodaya</i> |

| | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| 3. Kavichandra Shankhadhara | 13th C. A.D. | <i>Hasyārṇava</i> |
| 4. Chandrashekhara Sandhivigrahika Mahāpatra | 14th C. A.D. | <i>Narasīṅghavijaya</i> |
| 5. Kaviraj Visvanath Mahapatra | 15th C. A.D. | <i>Candrakalanātika</i> |
| 6. Gajapati Puruṣottamadeva | 1466-1479 A.D. | <i>Abhinavaveṇiśaṃhāra</i> |
| 7. Gajapati Kapilendradeva | 1437-1466 A.D. | <i>Parasurāma-vijaya-vyāyoga</i> |
| 8. Gopinatha Rath | 1466-1496 A.D. | <i>Candrāvatīharana</i> |
| 9. Kavichandraraya Divākar Mishra | 1466-1535 A.D. | <i>Bhaktivaibhava</i> and <i>Utsāhavi</i> |
| 10. Ray Ramananda | 15th C. A.D. | <i>Śrījagannāthavallabha</i> |
| 11. Madhavidasi | 15th C. A.D. | <i>Puruṣottamadeva</i> |
| 12. Jaya-deva Acharya | 15th C. A.D. | <i>Pīyūṣalahari</i> |
| 13. Nārāyaṇa Nandā | 16th C. A.D. | <i>Ramacandrodayavy- āyoga</i> |
| 14. Kavichandra Markandeya Mishra | 1559-1578 A.D. | <i>Vīlāsavatisattaka</i> |
| 15. Gajapati Rāmachandraḍeva | 1568-1607 A.D. | <i>Śrīkṛṣṇabhakta vātsalyavyāyoga</i> |
| 16. Anadi Mishra | 1650-1720 A.D. | <i>Maṇimata</i> |
| 17. Kaviratnapurohita Sadashiva Udgata | 18th C. A.D. | <i>Pramoditagovinda</i> |
| 18. Chayani Chandrashekhara Rājaguru | 1729-1793 A.D. | <i>Madhurāniruddha</i> or <i>Uśāniruddha</i> |
| 19. Kavibhuṣaṇa Govinda Sāmantarāya | 1750 A.D. | <i>Samriddhamādhava</i> |
| 20. Kavichandra Kamalalochana Khadgarāya | 1775 A.D. | <i>Vrajarajivatu</i> |
| 21. Kavivara Nilakantha Mishra | 1764-1792 A.D. | <i>Bhanjamahodaya</i> |

Besides the above available creative sanskrit literature many other sanskrit works are still unknown to the world of scholars and so far no research is done in this direction. Hence the world of the scholars is requested to carry on their works in this direction also.